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ALEX KURTZMAN & ROBERTO ORCI
PRESENT

FRINGE™

#2 OF 6
MAR 09

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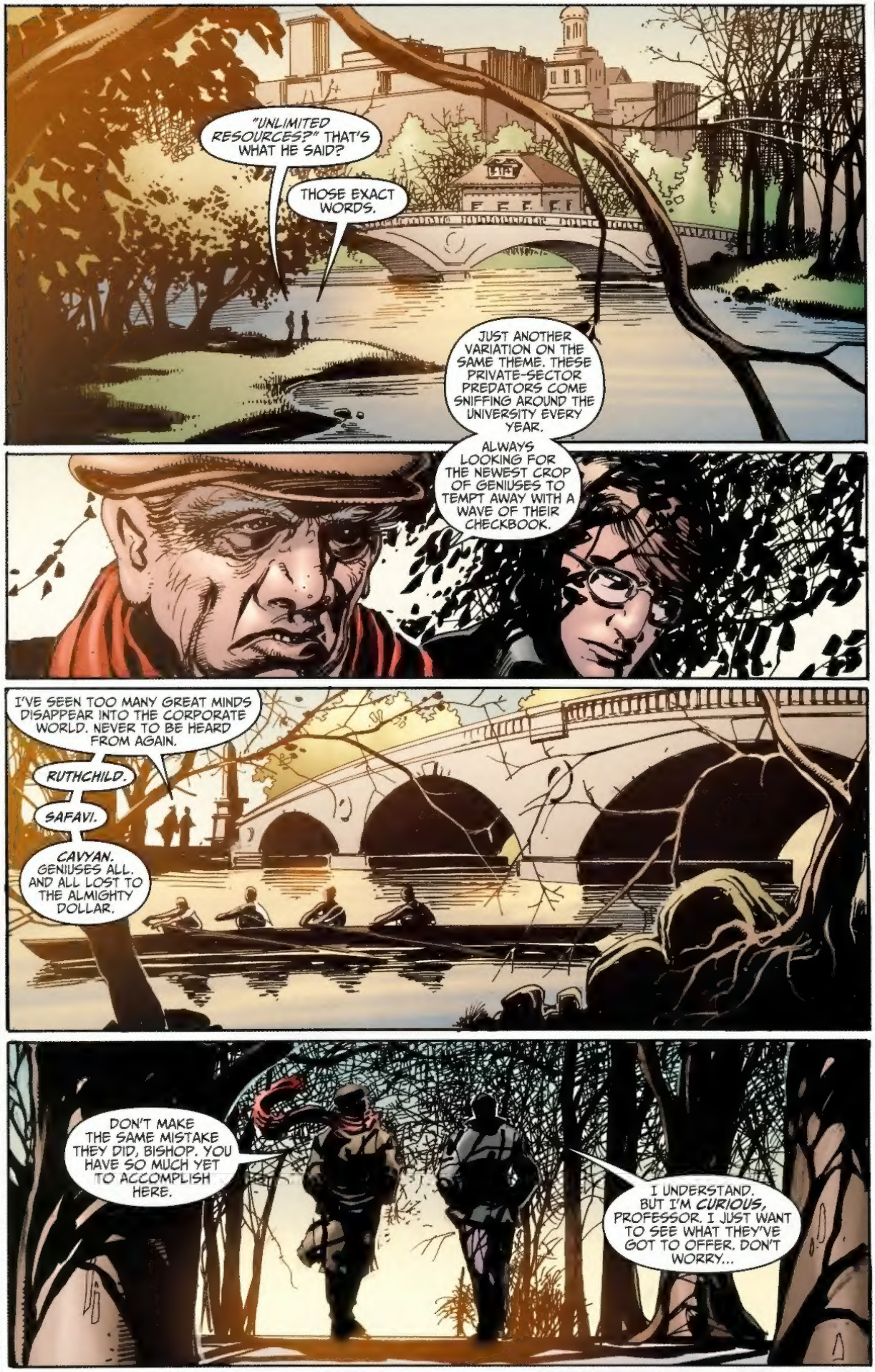
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
HE DIDN'T! I SWEAR TO GOD. MY FATHER KNEW HIM. NO SOCKS.
WHY WOULDN'T EINSTEIN WEAR SOCKS?
BECAUSE THEY'RE REDUNDANT. WHY DO SOCKS EXIST? TO COVER THE FEET. WHY DO SHOES EXIST? TO COVER THE FEET. REDUNDANT.
EINSTEIN WAS THE ULTIMATE EMPIRICIST. NO SOCKS FOR HIM.
STOP DISTRACTING ME. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY ASSISTANT. HIT THE SWITCH.
AND KEEP THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER HANDY.
BELL AND BISHOP
PART 2:
EXCELLENT SOAP
WRITER: MIKE JOHNSON
ARTIST: TOM MANDRAKE
COLORISTS: TONY AVIÑA & CARRIE STRACHAN
LETTERER: WES ABBOTT
ASSISTANT EDITOR: KRISTY QUINN
EDITORS: BEN ABERNATHY AND HANK KANALZ
SPECIAL THANKS TO JEFF PINKNER

WE USED UP THE LAST ONE. UNTIL ANOTHER GRANT COMES THROUGH WE CAN'T AFFORD SO MUCH AS A--
NOK NOK NOK
ARE WE EXPECTING ANYONE?
THE FBI. THEY MUST HAVE FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR WITH THE NITROGLYCERINE.
DON'T BE PARANOID, BELLY. NO ONE KNOWS WE'RE EVEN DOWN HERE.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A LOST FRESHMAN LOOKING FOR HIS CLASSROOM.
YOU MUST BE WILLIAM BELL.
YOU'RE... NOT A FRESHMAN.
HAVEN'T BEEN FOR AWHILE, NO. MAY I COME IN?
S-SURE.
SO THIS IS WHERE IT ALL HAPPENS.
I'M SORRY, HAVE WE MET, MISTER--?
MY NAME IS BRADBURY, DR. BISHOP.
DO YOU HAVE A PERMIT FOR THIS?

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT UNLESS YOU SHOW US SOME IDENTIFICATION, I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO--
RELAX, PROFESSOR. IF I THOUGHT YOU HAD PERMITS FOR EVERYTHING IN THIS LAB, I'D THINK YOU WEREN'T TRYING HARD ENOUGH.
NO, THE PEOPLE I REPRESENT AREN'T INTERESTED IN PERMITS. WE'RE INTERESTED IN RESULTS.
SPECIFICALLY, THE KIND OF RESULTS YOU POSTULATED IN YOUR RECENT PAPER ON QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT. YOU KNOW THE ONE. THE ONE THAT SUGGESTED *TELEPORTATION* WAS POSSIBLE.
IT WAS ALL *THEORETICAL*.
WE'RE DECADES AWAY FROM PERFORMING THE EXPERIMENTS THAT WOULD PROVE WE'RE EVEN ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
MY COMPANY DOESN'T THINK SO.
WE THINK ALL YOU NEED IS ENOUGH FUNDING AND THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.
BUT THE EQUIPMENT WE NEED HASN'T EVEN BEEN INVENTED YET! FOR STARTERS, YOU'D NEED A SUPERCOLLIDER THE SIZE OF CHINA.
AND WE CAN'T GIVE YOU THAT.
BUT WOULD YOU SETTLE FOR ALASKA?
RICHARD BRADBURY FRESH START SOAP CO.
YOU MAKE *SOAP*?
AMONG MANY, MANY OTHER THINGS.
THE OFFER'S ON THE TABLE, GENTLEMEN.


"UNLIMITED RESOURCES?" THAT'S WHAT HE SAID?
THOSE EXACT WORDS.
JUST ANOTHER VARIATION ON THE SAME THEME. THESE PRIVATE-SECTOR PREDATORS COME SNIFFING AROUND THE UNIVERSITY EVERY YEAR.
ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE NEWEST CROP OF GENIUSES TO TEMPT AWAY WITH A WAVE OF THEIR CHECKBOOK.
I'VE SEEN TOO MANY GREAT MINDS DISAPPEAR INTO THE CORPORATE WORLD. NEVER TO BE HEARD FROM AGAIN.
RUTHCHILD.
SAFAVI.
CAVYAN. GENIUSES ALL. AND ALL LOST TO THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.
DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THEY DID, BISHOP. YOU HAVE SO MUCH YET TO ACCOMPLISH HERE.
I UNDERSTAND. BUT I'M CURIOUS, PROFESSOR. I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT THEY'VE GOT TO OFFER. DON'T WORRY...

"I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT."

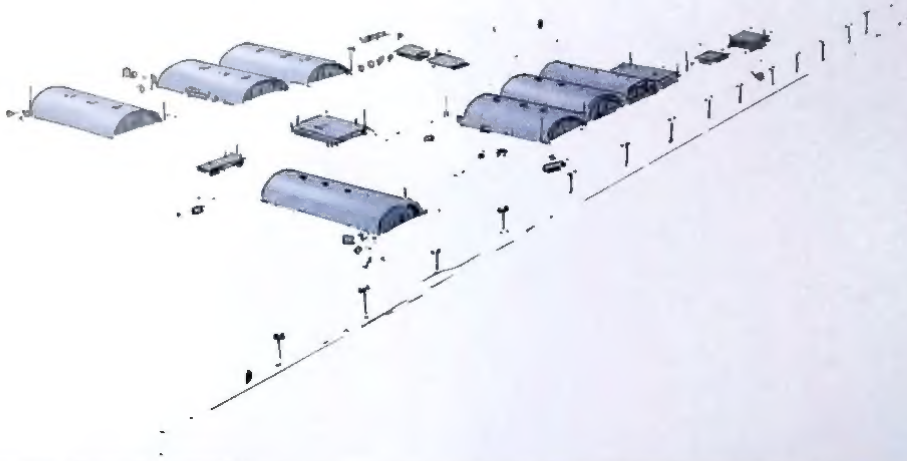
NORTHERN ALASKA.

ONE WEEK LATER.

WELCOME TO THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

EISENHOWER SIGNED THE PAPERS ON IT BACK IN '60. NO ROADS ALLOWED, NO DRILLING, NO MINING. JUST A SAFE HAVEN FOR POLAR BEARS, ESKIMOS...

...AND SCIENTISTS WHO DON'T LIKE DISTRACTIONS.



SHUUK SHUUK SHUUK

DOES ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT SUCKING SOUND? WHAT IS THAT?

SO YOU'RE AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT?

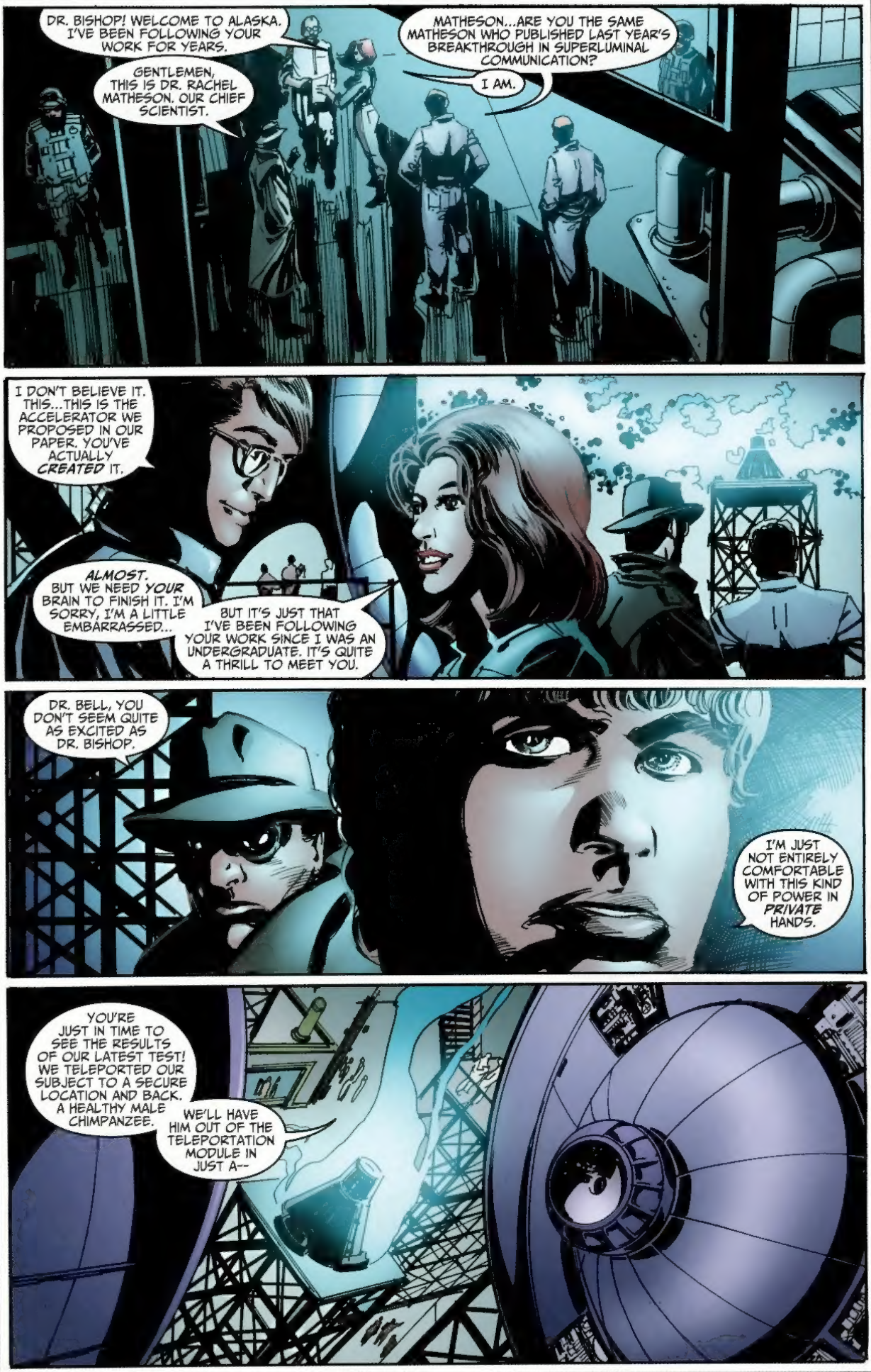
WE HAVE AN *UNDERSTANDING.*

BUT WHAT IS YOUR COMPANY ACTUALLY *DOING* UP HERE?

THE SHORT ANSWER?

"WAITING FOR YOU TWO."
BISHOP, DR. WALTER
IS THIS ALL REALLY NECESSARY?
SORRY ABOUT THE BUREAUCRACY. BUT WE KEEP DETAILED RECORDS OF EVERYONE WHO ENTERS THE BASE.
YOU'LL SOON SEE WHY.
DON'T LOSE YOUR ID CARDS. YOU'LL NEED THEM TO ACCESS THE LABS, SO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THEM WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.
WHERE DID THE MONEY FOR ALL OF THIS COME FROM?
VARIOUS SOURCES. PRIVATE DONORS CONCERNED WITH THE DIRECTION OUR WORLD IS GOING.
CONCERNED CITIZENS WHO DON'T WANT TO SEE THE UNITED STATES FALL BEHIND IN A RACE IT SHOULD BE WINNING EASILY. AND THE STAKES COULDN'T BE HIGHER.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE COLD WAR. THE ARMS RACE. THIS IS SOME KIND OF SECRET WEAPONS LAB, ISN'T IT? THE SOAP IS JUST A FRONT.

NOT AT ALL. WE HAVE A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONSUMER PRODUCTS DIVISION.
TRUST ME, GENTLEMEN...
WE MAKE *EXCELLENT* SOAP.


DR. BISHOP! WELCOME TO ALASKA. I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR WORK FOR YEARS.
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS DR. RACHEL MATHESON. OUR CHIEF SCIENTIST.
MATHESON...ARE YOU THE SAME MATHESON WHO PUBLISHED LAST YEAR'S BREAKTHROUGH IN SUPERLUMINAL COMMUNICATION?
I AM.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THIS...THIS IS THE ACCELERATOR WE PROPOSED IN OUR PAPER. YOU'VE ACTUALLY *CREATED* IT.
ALMOST. BUT WE NEED *YOUR* BRAIN TO FINISH IT. I'M SORRY, I'M A LITTLE EMBARRASSED...
BUT IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR WORK SINCE I WAS AN UNDERGRADUATE. IT'S QUITE A THRILL TO MEET YOU.
DR. BELL, YOU DON'T SEEM QUITE AS EXCITED AS DR. BISHOP.
I'M JUST NOT ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE WITH THIS KIND OF POWER IN *PRIVATE* HANDS.
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR LATEST TEST! WE TELEPORTED OUR SUBJECT TO A SECURE LOCATION AND BACK. A HEALTHY MALE CHIMPANZEE.
WE'LL HAVE HIM OUT OF THE TELEPORTATION MODULE IN JUST A--

RRRAAOORRR!
RACHEL! LOOK OUT!
EVERYBODY BACK! SECURITY, READY TASERS!
LOCK DOWN THE TERMINAL! NOW! NOW!
TTZZZT
TTZZZT
YOU SAVED ME, DR. BISHOP.
WHAT IS THAT THING?
SOMETHING'S BEEN HAPPENING TO THE TEST SUBJECTS. WE CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.
WE NEED YOUR HELP, DOCTORS.

NOK NOK
HEY WALTER!
YOU SHOULD BE WORKING, BELLY. WE HAVE MOUNTAINS OF RESEARCH TO REVIEW.
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE FOLLOW ME
CAN'T THIS WAIT TIL MORNING?
MMMM! YOU'LL WAKE UP YOUR GIRLFRIEND! "OH DR. BISHOP YOU HAVED ME!"
SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND
WHATEVER YOU SAY
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I'M NOT GOING TO HELP THESE PEOPLE UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE REALLY AFTER WHAT THEY'RE HIDING
THEY JUST SHOWED US A BILLION-DOLLAR TELEPORTATION MACHINE. WHAT ELSE COULD THEY POSSIBLY BE HIDING?
MOTIVE
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE REALLY?
BZZT
I'M NOT HELPING THEM WITH ANYTHING UNTIL WE...
FIND...

BISHOP THEY'RE...
THEY'RE STILL ALIVE, BELLY!
DECAPITATED, BUT ALIVE! AND THEIR BRAINS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING! FASCINATING!
MY GOD. I KNOW THIS MAN. THIS IS DR. RUTHCHILD. FROM BERKELEY!
AND THIS IS DR. CAVYAN... PROFESSOR SAFAVI... GOOD LORD!
THEY'RE ALL SCIENTISTS!
OH NO..
RACHEL!
I REALLY WISH YOU TWO HADN'T FOUND THIS ROOM.

TO BE CONTINUED...IN FRINGE #3!

SONOFA ..

NEXT STOP... HOBOKEN.
11:05:04:16

STRANGERS ON A TRAIN
WRITTEN BY
ALEX KATENELSON & MATTHEW PITTS
ARTWORK BY
TOM MANDRAKE
COLORED BY
TONY AVIÑA
LETTERED BY
ED ABBOTT
ASSISTANT EDITOR
KRISTY QUINN
EDITORS
BEN ABERNATHY AND HANK KANALZ
SPECIAL THANKS TO
JEFF PINCHER

MY BRIEFCASE-- IT'S GONE--DID YOU SEE ANYTHING?

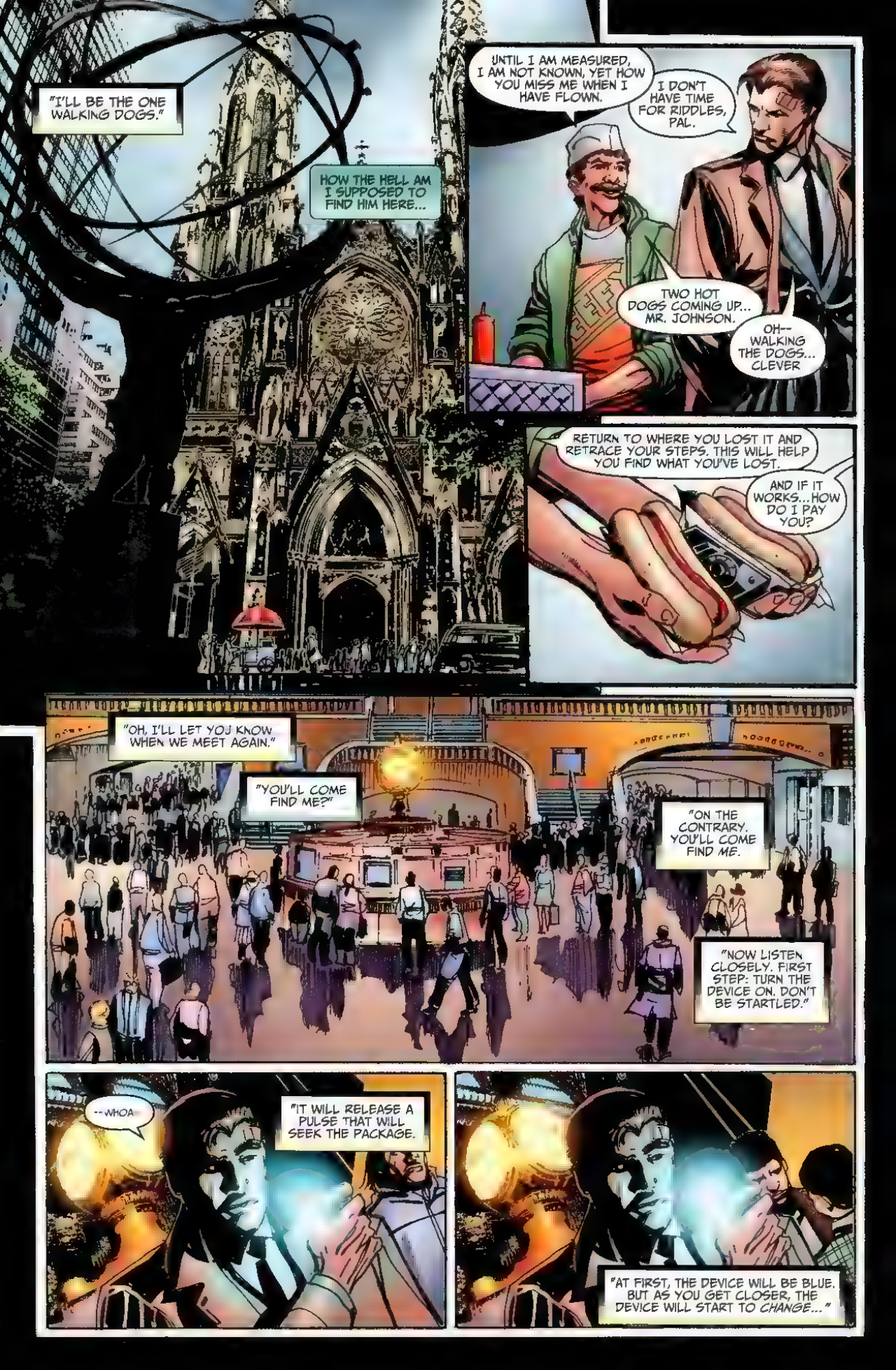
WHA- WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?

PRRRING
Hoboken Terminal Main
THIS IS JOHNSON.
DO YOU HAVE THE PACKAGE?
...AFFIRMATIVE.
THEN PROCEED TO THE DROP-OFF POINT, IMMEDIATELY.
KLIK
MAYBE IT'LL BE FINE...
MAYBE THEY WON'T REALIZE IT'S GONE...
MAYBE I CAN GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S--

CLICK
--TOO LATE.
YOU KNOW OUR AGENCY'S ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON MISSION FAILURES. WERE YOU NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE BRIEFCASE'S CONTENTS AND THE LIVES THAT DEPEND ON IT?
I'M AWARE
DON'T BOTHER REACHING FOR YOUR GUN. I'VE ALREADY DISPOSED OF IT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MAHONEY?
I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT TODAY'S YOUR LUCKY DAY. THE AGENCY HAS DECIDED TO GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE.
YOU HAVE UNTIL 4PM TOMORROW TO RETRIEVE THE PACKAGE. BUT, JOHNSON: IF YOU FAIL AGAIN, I WILL FIND YOU. UNDERSTAND?
AND NEXT TIME, I WON'T BE SO... SOCIABLE.

SHOP
MR. JOHNSON--IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
NO TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES, MANNY. I NEED YOUR HELP
THEN BY ALL MEANS--STEP INTO MY OFFICE.
WHAT DO YOU NEED? PASSPORTS? WEAPONS? INTEL?
I NEED YOUR HELP TRACKING A BRIEFCASE I LOST YESTERDAY.
A BRIEFCASE? THAT'S IT?
IF I DON'T FIND IT, THEY'LL KILL ME. INSIDE IT IS A--
DON'T TELL ME--I DON'T WANNA KNOW.
THAT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST.

THE S.I.S. IS SHOWING NOTHING. NO OPERATIVES IN THE AREA.
SAME WITH THE MARTORNANO FAMILY. YOU CHECK THE GOVERNMENT ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY SERVICE?
TWICE. WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIEND FROM THE CALI CARTEL?
DEAD.
MANNY, WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR HOURS. WE CAN'T FIND WHO THIS GUY WORKS FOR. LET'S FACE IT. I'M DEAD.
--WAIT A MINUTE!
MY GUY IN CUBA, FRABLE, SAYS HE'S GOT A GUY WHO CAN FIND ANYTHING.
IS HE DISCREET?
ABSOLUTELY. CATCH IS: HE'S KINDA... STRANGE. FRABLE SAYS TO BE CAREFUL-- SAYS WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE GETTING INTO.
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. GIVE ME THE NUMBER.
IS THIS ANTHONY? MR. FRABLE GAVE ME YOUR NUMBER-- TOLD ME THAT YOU...UM... FIND THINGS?
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU HAD IT?
YESTERDAY. I WAS ON A TRAIN AND SOMEONE--
WHAT TIME?
...AROUND 4PM.
MEET ME AT THE ATLAS STATUE AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER IN THREE HOURS.


"I'LL BE THE ONE WALKING DOGS."
HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND HIM HERE...
UNTIL I AM MEASURED, I AM NOT KNOWN, YET HOW YOU MISS ME WHEN I HAVE FLOWN.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR RIDDLES, PAL.
TWO HOT DOGS COMING UP... MR. JOHNSON.
OH-- WALKING THE DOGS... CLEVER
RETURN TO WHERE YOU LOST IT AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS. THIS WILL HELP YOU FIND WHAT YOU'VE LOST.
AND IF IT WORKS...HOW DO I PAY YOU?
"OH, I'LL LET YOJ KNOW WHEN WE MEET AGAIN."
"YOU'LL COME FIND ME?"
"ON THE CONTRARY. YOU'LL COME FIND ME.
"NOW LISTEN CLOSELY. FIRST STEP: TURN THE DEVICE ON. DON'T BE STARTLED."
--WHOA
"IT WILL RELEASE A PULSE THAT WILL SEEK THE PACKAGE.
"AT FIRST, THE DEVICE WILL BE BLUE. BUT AS YOU GET CLOSER, THE DEVICE WILL START TO CHANGE..."

S'CJSE ME-- PARDON ME--
"PURPLE WILL MEAN YOU'RE GETTING WARMER...
"AND WHEN IT TURNS *RED* IT MEANS YOU'VE GOT IT!"
TELL ME WHERE IT IS, OR I LOSE MY GRIP. YOU HAVE TILL I COUNT TO ONE.
OH, GOD!
I'M NOT GONNA ASK YOU AGAIN!
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

DAMMIT, MUST'VE WALKED R.GHT PAST ME...

THERE IT IS...
The FRESH START SOAP CO.
KRAK
TELL ME WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR! TELL ME OR I BLOW OUT YOUR--
WHA--?

THAT'S IM-IMPOSSIBLE...
THAT'S MY FACE...
BEEP BEEP
NO...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO...
UNLOCK THE CUFFS...

SONOFA...
NEXT STOP... HOBOKEN.
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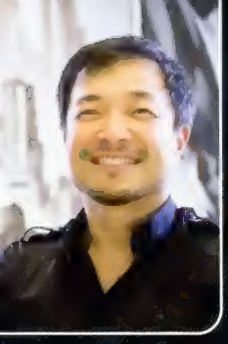
FRINGE



THE STORM FRONT

Last month we polled the editors, so it's only fair that this month Jim takes the hot seat...

Favorite WildStorm book of 2008? These are always tough to choose because every title leaves something memorable—or else why work on it? But the whole *World's End* storyline would have to be up there, purely for everyone involved in getting us there and going forward. We really wanted to shake things up in the WildStorm Universe, so thanks to all the fans who are sticking by to see what happens next.

An honorable mention also goes out to Mike Costa and Fiona Staples for their fresh take on the SECRET HISTORY OF THE AUTHORITY: HAWKSMOOR. It was the sleeper WSU book of the year for me, and I'll be looking forward to more work by these two great new talents.

And before moving onto 2009, be sure to pick up last month's EX MACHINA #40 for a surprise two-page sequence by Garth Ennis and I, compliments of Brian K. Vaughan and Tony Harris. It was an honor to be given the keys to the car, so to speak.

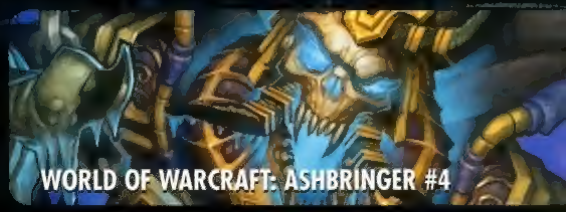
Finally, the project I'm most looking forward to in '09 is the final issue of PLANETARY by Warren Ellis and John Cassaday. It's been a wild ride from beginning to end and I look forward to reading the whole series through one day, but you know what they say about all good things.

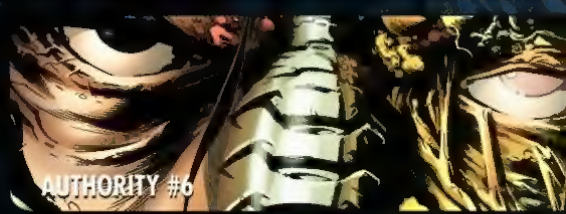
One more title I can talk about is PROTOTYPE, which continues our run of hit videogame properties at WildStorm—from WORLD OF WARCRAFT to GEARS OF WAR to more surprises in 2009.

I wish I could tell you about all of the other titles coming out, but you'll have to come back next month for that!

JIM LEE

OUT THIS MONTH!





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THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE BOOK TWO

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FERRYMAN #5
FRINGE #2
GEARS OF WAR #4
GEN13 #26
MIRROR'S EDGE #3
MYSTERIUS #1
PUSH #4 & 5
RESISTANCE #1 & 2
STORMING PARADISE #5
STORMWATCH: PHD #18
WILDCATS #7
WORLD OF WARCRAFT #15
WORLD OF WARCRAFT: ASHBRINGER #4
X-FILES #3

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at wildstorm.com

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